

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 15069 211212Z

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ACTION NEA-05

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P R 211040Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8656

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: HOLIDAY GREETINGS

TWAS THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS AND ALL THROUGH THE MISSION,
NOT A CREATURE WAS IGNORANT OF THE LATEST PALAM COLLISION.
THERE WAS FOG IN THE MORNING AND DUNG SMOKE AT NIGHT,
SUCH THAT NEITHER AIR NAVIGATION NOR BREATHING WAS WHOLLY DELIGHT.
THE CHILDREN WERE HUDDLED ALL SNUG ON THEIR CHARPOYS,
CONCERNED MOSTLY WITH DELHI'S SCANT STOCKS OF CANDY AND TOYS.
THE MORE CLEVER AMONG THEM PLANNED AN INSTRUMENT LANDING
BUT THE TEENAGERS SCOFFED, FINDING IT MUCH TOO DEMANDING
A PROSPECT FOR SLEIGHS AND REINDEER. THE FOLKS IN THE MAILROOM,
WITHCAIL STRIKES AND AIR STRIKES BEGINNING TO LOOM,
WONDERED IF CLAUS MIGHT NOT HELP OUT BY TAKING A SACKFUL
OF MAIL WITH HIM TO BANGKOK, BEIRUT OR ISTANBUL.
THE TOWN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY CONTINUED AS PLANNED,
THOUGH PALESTINIAN RUMORS FORCED IT TO BE MANNED
BY A HUNDRED POLICEMEN AND A DOZEN MARINES.
BUT ALL HAD A GOOD TIME AS THE OLD CHRISTMAS SCENES
CAME BACK WITH TH CAROLS, THE COOKIES AND PUNCH
AND ESPECIALLY THE SPIRIT THAT NO THREAT COULD CRUNCH.
THE PAPERS REplete WITH DISASTERS, AND PLANS,
QICH THE WISER OBSERVERS DISCOUNT AT A GLANCE.
BUT WE IN THE EMBASSY ARE FULL OS GOOD CHEER,
AS WE LOOK BACK OVER A FAIRLY SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

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IT HAD ITS UPS AS IT HAD ITS DOWNS

BUT ITS END FINDS US DISPLAYING MORE SMILE THAN FROWNS.
AS WE BEGIN TO ANTICIPATE SEVENTY FOUR
WE TRUST OUR GOOD FRIENDS IN SECSTATE WILL NOT ASK WHAT FOR
WHEN WE WISH EVERYBODY IN NEA AND ENVIRONS
THE VERY HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAY SEASONS,
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO JOE WHOM WE'LL MISS WHEN HE
RIDES OUT OF SIGHT,
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT.
MOYNIHAN

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